

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the final Office Action dated December 13, 2007, are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8-11 are now pending in this application, with Claim 8 being independent. Claim 8 has been amended herein. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

In the final Office Action, Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,116,363 (Fuchimukai).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claim 8 has been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, Claim 8 is allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 8 relates to an image pickup apparatus comprising an image pickup device for converting an object image into an electrical signal, a chassis comprising first bent portions positioned at opposing ends of the chassis and a second bent portion formed between the first bent portions, and an exterior member.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the exterior member comprises front and rear covers, each extending from a first side to a second side of the apparatus. Claim 8 has also been amended to recite that the chassis extends from the first side to the second side of the apparatus. Claim 8 has been further amended to recite that the first bent portions are fixed to the front and rear covers of the exterior member by a plurality of fixing members formed on the first bent portions in order to fix the chassis to the exterior member.

In contrast, the Fuchimukai patent is not understood to disclose or suggest a chassis extending from the first side to the second side of an image pickup apparatus, as recited by amended Claim 8. Rather, this patent is understood to merely show a camera body 2 not disclosed to have front and rear covers. Therefore, the Fuchimukai patent is not understood to show a chassis fixed to such front and rear covers. In addition, the element the Examiner considers corresponding to the chassis, mount frame 4, is not understood to be coextensive with the camera body 2. Therefore, amended Claim 8 is not anticipated by the Fuchimukai patent and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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